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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

for the

MISSOURI and ARKANSAS

DRAINAGE BASINS

February 1, 1942

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Issued by the  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service  
Division of Irrigation  
In Cooperation with  
The Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station  
Colorado State College  
Fort Collins, Colorado

February 10, 1942



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

# SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS FOR MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS RIVERS

February 1, 1942

The following data pertaining to snow surveys and irrigation water-supply forecasts are provided by the Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with State departments, other Federal bureaus and local organizations. The snow measurements are made principally by field personnel of the following organizations: Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Geological Survey, War Department and State Experiment Stations. This work is otherwise conducted cooperatively with the State Engineers of Wyoming and Colorado, and various municipalities, irrigation associations, power companies and others. Precipitation records are supplied by the U. S. Weather Bureau.

## P R E C I P I T A T I O N   D A T A

WATERSHED	STATE	Precipitation October 1 to January 31 Inches	Departure from Normal Inches	Precipitation		Departure from Normal Inches
				January Inches		
Missouri	East. Mont.	2.32	-0.16	0.19		-0.34
Missouri	Cent. Mont.	3.38	+0.24	0.54		-0.14
Missouri	North Wyo.	5.79	+0.22	0.93		-0.57
North Platte	Wyoming	4.27	+0.71	0.52		-0.34
South Platte	Colorado	4.95	+1.55	0.80		+0.38
Arkansas	Colorado	4.21	+1.24	0.49		-0.09

The accumulation of precipitation, since October first, over the Missouri drainage in Montana is approximately normal and in Wyoming, slightly above. During January the precipitation was subnormal in these areas. Over the North Platte mountain drainage, the October-January rainfall was about 3/4-inch above normal, but during January a deficiency of 1/3-inch occurred. For the upper drainage of the South Platte in Colorado, the precipitation was about 1 1/2 inches above normal for the October-January period and 1/3-inch in excess for this last month. Precipitation was about 1 1/2 inches above normal over the past four months for the upper Arkansas drainage but slightly less during January.





## SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 1 SNOW SURVEYS AND COMPARISON OF DATA

## WITH THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS BY WATERSHEDS

WATERSHEDS	Snow Depth		Water Content		Number courses in Average	Snow Density			1942 Water Content in Percent of		
	Seven Year Avg.*		Seven Year Avg.*			1941		1942		Seven Year Avg.*	
	In.		In.			Percent		Percent		Percent	
	In.		In.			Percent		Percent		Percent	
MISSOURI RIVER											
Jefferson River	25.7	25.0	32.0	6.2	3	24	25	25	129	127	
Madison River	39.7	40.8	41.1	10.0	6	25	26	25	103	96	
Gallatin River	25.5	21.0	33.2	5.8	3	23	24	21	121	137	
Missouri River**	20.0	14.7	22.5	4.6	4	23	22	27	130	188	
Marias River	30.0	25.5	17.0	9.1	1	30	29	27	51	62	
Yellowstone River	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Shoshone River	35.2	43.4	36.6	9.0	1	26	24	26	108	91	
Bighorn River	21.7	20.9	22.8	4.8	11	22	23	21	100	100	
North Platte River	42.1	33.1	39.4	10.2	10	24	23	22	86	116	
Sweetwater River	25.3	26.5	24.1	5.1	1	20	25	15	73	57	
Laramie River	25.2	19.4	25.6	5.7	9	23	23	22	98	124	
South Platte River***	17.4	16.7	20.6	2.8	3	16	13	18	132	176	
Crow Creek	14.6	10.1	14.6	3.0	1	21	27	18	87	96	
Poudre River	25.4	18.4	25.7	6.0	7	24	25	20	87	113	
Big Thompson River	34.6	27.8	34.2	8.4	2	24	21	22	88	128	
St. Vrain River	26.0	19.4	31.6	5.7	1	22	11	24	133	346	
Boulder Creek	20.4	15.6	17.3	5.2	2	25	19	25	85	147	
Clear Creek	26.3	25.5	29.5	4.6	1	17	15	16	104	123	
ARKANSAS RIVER	28.2	30.6	27.2	6.1	8	22	21	20	90	86	

\*Some for shorter periods.

\*\*Headwaters of Missouri River

\*\*\*Above Denver, Colo.



Some smaller boats are also used for carrying passengers and goods. The boats are usually made of wood and are very light and fast. They are used for carrying passengers and goods between the islands and the mainland.

Name of boat	Length	Breadth	Depth	Speed	Capacity	Remarks	Passengers				Goods				Total weight	Remarks
							Men	Women	Children	Animals	Plants	Animals	Plants	Other		
Small boat	10	3	1	10	10	Small boat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	Small boat
Medium boat	20	6	2	20	20	Medium boat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	Medium boat
Large boat	30	8	3	30	30	Large boat	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	Large boat
Very large boat	40	10	4	40	40	Very large boat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	40	Very large boat
Small boat	10	3	1	10	10	Small boat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	Small boat
Medium boat	20	6	2	20	20	Medium boat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	Medium boat
Large boat	30	8	3	30	30	Large boat	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	Large boat
Very large boat	40	10	4	40	40	Very large boat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	40	Very large boat
Small boat	10	3	1	10	10	Small boat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	Small boat
Medium boat	20	6	2	20	20	Medium boat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	Medium boat
Large boat	30	8	3	30	30	Large boat	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	Large boat
Very large boat	40	10	4	40	40	Very large boat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	40	Very large boat
Small boat	10	3	1	10	10	Small boat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	Small boat
Medium boat	20	6	2	20	20	Medium boat	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	Medium boat
Large boat	30	8	3	30	30	Large boat	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	Large boat
Very large boat	40	10	4	40	40	Very large boat	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	40	Very large boat

Small boat

Medium boat

Large boat

Very large boat



## WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

**MONTANA.** The water content of the snow cover on the watersheds of the Missouri and its tributaries shows an average of about  $1\frac{1}{3}$  more in comparison with that a year ago and  $1\frac{1}{5}$  more than the five-year average. Snow cover on the watershed of the Marias River is much below normal.

**WYOMING.** Snow cover in the Big Horn mountains, upper Wind River country, is normal at this time and equal to that of a year ago. Stream flow last fall was much above normal and reservoir filling in this area good to excellent. The soil moisture conditions are good. The present indications for an irrigation water supply in this section of Wyoming are quite favorable.

For the North Platte River drainage, the recent surveys indicate the water content of the snow to be 16 percent more than last year and about an equal amount less than the past seven-year average. Reservoir storage is good in the valley, soil moisture fair to good; and stream flow normal. Snow conditions in North Park in Colorado are better than last year at this time, with soil moisture the best in years. The water content of the snow on Old Battle snow course measured 16.2 inches recently, in comparison with 13.3 inches last February first. The present general conditions over the North Platte drainage are favorable for ample irrigation supply this coming season.

The water content of the snow cover in the high mountain country of the Laramie River drainage is about normal, in comparison with the past seven-year average, and nearly 25 per cent better than a year ago. In the Laramie valley to State Line, there has been little snow so far this winter. Stream flow during the past months has been good and soil moisture good to excellent in both mountain and valley areas. The present outlook for next season's water supply is quite promising at this time.

**COLORADO.** On the upper South Platte River drainage the water content of the snow is at present about 75 per cent better than a year ago and 32 per cent more than the past seven-year average. The snow cover on the tributaries of the South Platte, in northern Colorado, is, on the whole, improved at this time, the percentages varying from about normal to more than twice that of a year ago. Over this northern section of the State, the water content of the snow at this time is approximately 10 per cent less than the seven-year average.

Stream flow during the past fall and early winter has been good, better than last year for the same period. Soil moisture in both the mountain and valley areas is good to excellent. The reservoirs in the Lower Platte Valley are well filled at this time, with indications that full capacity will be reached. Storage along the tributaries is about normal for this time of year. Generally, the outlook for water supplies in this part of Colorado is encouraging at this time.

Over the Arkansas River drainage, high mountain country, the water content of the snow cover is now about 10 per cent less than the seven-year average and 14 per cent less than it was a year ago. The fall and early winter flow of the river and tributaries has been well above normal, with a considerable amount of water flowing over the State Line into Kansas. The storage in valley reservoirs at this time is the best in many years, with practically all major reservoirs full. Last year at this time these were empty. Soil moisture in both the mountain and valley areas is good. The present outlook for irrigation supplies in this valley for the coming season is especially good in view of the large amount of water now in storage.







MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS RIVER WATERSHEDS  
Summary of Federal and State Cooperative Snow Surveys

Issued February 10, 1942, at Fort Collins, Colo.

**\*\*On adjacent drainage**

Readings Jan. 16

@Average for period of record





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Main Drainage and Snow Course		Local Drainage	State	Locality	Description	Elev.	National Forest	Feb. 1 Snow Cover Measurements			
No.	Snow Course	Drainage						Av. Snow Depth	Av. Water Content	1941	1942
								1941	Av. @	In.	In.
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>											
6	Chessman Res.	Tennile Cr.	Mont.	11mi. SW. Helena	2-8N-5W	6200	Helena	10.8	8.0	2.4	2.8
41	Tennile Cr. Lower	Tennile Cr.	"	17mi. SW. Helena	13-8N-6W	6250	"	17.7	12.0	3.8	5.1
42	Tennile Cr. Middle	"	"	"	13-8N-6W	5800	"	23.8	17.6	5.3	7.6
43	Tennile Cr. Upper	"	"	"	19-8N-5W	8000	"	27.7	21.2	6.7	8.8
					Average for Drainage			20.0	14.7	4.6	6.0
<b>MARIAS RIVER</b>											
7	Desert Mountain*	Outbend Cr.	Mont.	4mi. S. Belton	24-31N-19W	5600	Flathead	--	32.6	--	--
20	Marias Pass	Two Medicine	"	Summit	48-3N113.4W	5250	Glacier NP	30.0	25.5	9.1	4.6
					Average for Drainage			30.0	25.5	9.1	4.6
<b>SHOSHONE RIVER</b>											
50	Brooks Lake #3*	Shoshone R.	Wyo.	Brooks Lake	23-44N-110W	9200	Washakie	35.2	43.4	9.0	9.7
<b>BIGHORN RIVER</b>											
12	Togvottee Pass	Wind River	Wyo.	Togvottee Pass	29-44N-110W	9600	Teton	53.7	45.5	15.1	13.9
45	Sawmill Glade	Popo Agie R.	"	13mi. SW. Lander	3-31N-101W	8500	Washakie	10.8	9.7	1.9	1.8
46	Blue Ridge	"	"	15mi. "	23-31N-101W	9500	"	17.2	16.1	3.2	3.3
47	South Pass	L. Popo Agie R.	"	19mi. "	13-30N-101W	9000	"	23.5	24.5	4.6	3.7
49	Sheridan Cr. R.S. #2	Sheridan Cr.	"	16mi. NW. Dubois	3-42N-109W	7500	"	18.0	18.7	3.2	2.4
50	Brooks Lake #3	Wind River	"	Brooks Lake	23-44N-110W	9200	"	35.2	43.4	9.0	9.7
14	Dome Lake	Goose Cr.	Wyo.	Dome Lake	11-53N-87W	8800	Bighorn	15.0	18.4	3.3	3.6
51	St. Lawrence R.S.	St. Lawrence Cr.	"	27mi. NW. Lander	26-1N-4W	9000	Shos. I.R.	13.5	10.3	2.8	3.6
52	Mosquito Park RS	Trout Creek	"	18mi. "	23-25-3W	9500	"	19.6	11.9	1.9	3.6
53	DuNoir	Wind River	"	9mi. NW. Dubois	27-42N-108W	8750	Washakie	20.4	19.2	3.2	4.4
54	T-Cross Ranch	Horse Creek	"	12mi. N. Dubois	1-43N-107W	8000	"	11.8	12.0	4.3	4.3
					Average for Drainage			21.7	20.9	2.1	2.0
								21.7	22.8	4.8	4.8

\*On adjacent drainage

E - Estimated

@Average for period of record

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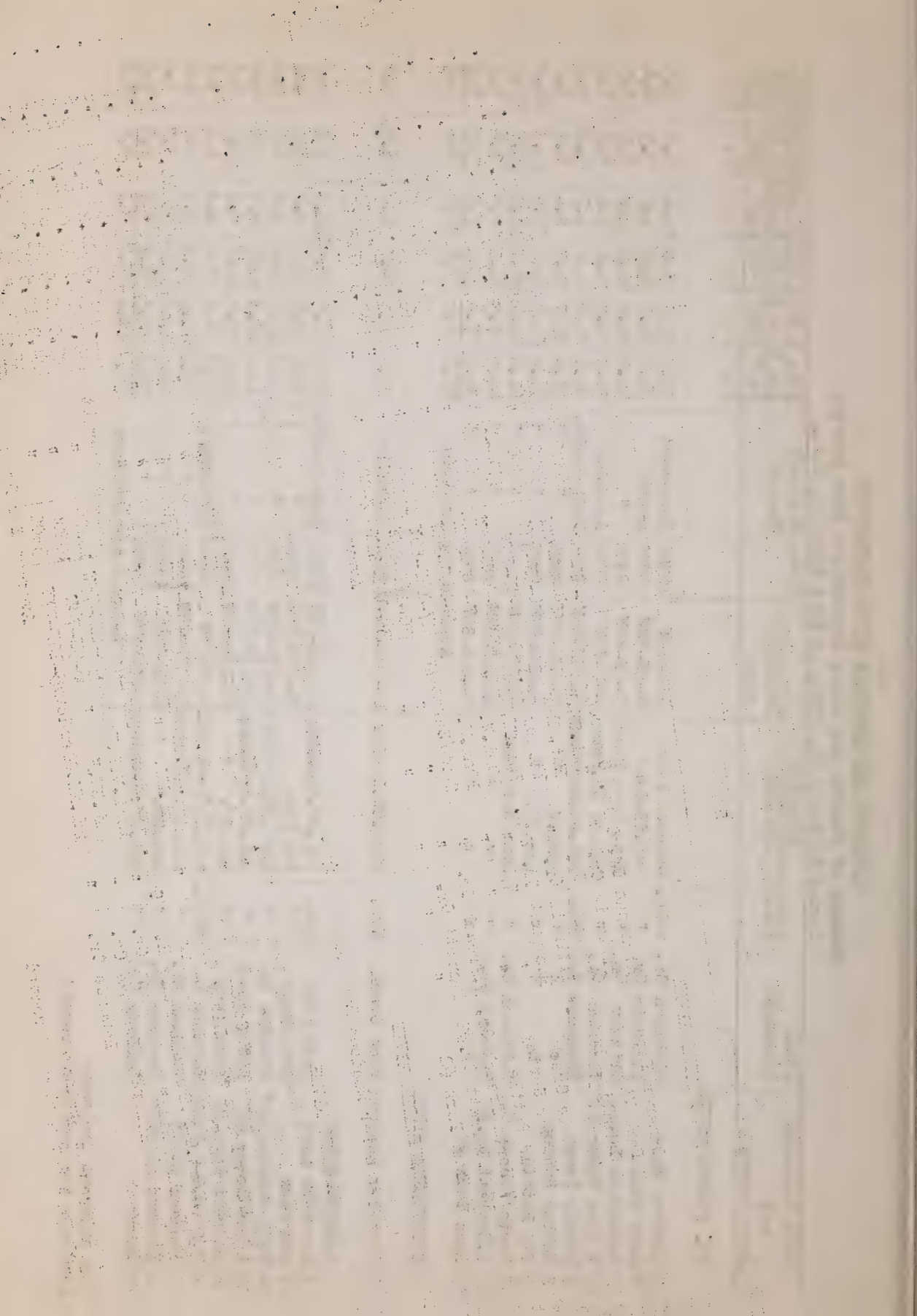


**MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS RIVER WATERSHEDS**  
**Summary of Federal and State Cooperative Snow Surveys**  
**Issued February 10, 1942, at Fort Collins, Colo.**

Main Drainage and No. Snow Course	Local Drainage	State	Location		Descrip- tion	Elev.	National Forest	Feb. 1 Snow Cover Measurements				
			Locality					Av. Snow Depth Av. @ 1941	Av. Snow Depth Av. @ 1942	Water Content 1941	Water Content 1942	
NO. PLATTE RIVER												
1	Cameron Pass	Colo.	Cameron Pass	2-6N-76W	10300	Roosevelt	38.8	30.3	37.0	10.4	9.8	8.3
7	Park View	"	7mi. SE. Rand	24-5N-78W	9200	Routt	24.2	20.2	24.5	5.0	3.5	4.4
8	Columbine Lodge	"	Rbt. Ears Pass	21-5N-82W	9300	"	52.3	40.5	51.9	12.8	9.1	11.7
62	Willow Creek P.*	"	Willow Cr. Pass	1-4N-78W	9500	Arapaho	31.3	24.8	31.8	7.0	5.1	7.1
7	Bottle Creek	Wyo.	7mi. SW. Encampment	24-14N-85W	8200	Medicine Bow	30.1	23.6	30.7	6.7	5.6	5.8
8	Webber Spring	"	10mi. W.	27-14N-85W	9000	"	37.4	30.7	39.3	8.4	6.3	8.1
9	Old Battle	"	12mi. W.	29-14N-85W	9800	"	61.8	51.0	63.5	15.9	13.3	16.2
37	North French Cr.	"	Cent/Saratoga	27-16N-80W	10200	"	61.0	44.7	49.7	16.0	10.5	10.7
38	N. Barrett Cr. #2	"	"	30-16N-80W	9400	"	49.9	37.5	36.1	12.3	7.4	9.2
39	Ryan Park #2	"	"	34-16N-81W	8400	"	34.5	27.4	29.3	7.8	5.5	6.6
				Average for Drainage			42.1	33.1	39.4	10.2	7.6	8.8
SWEETWATER RIVER												
29	Grannier Meadows	Wyo.	20mi. SW. Lander	19-30N-100W	9000	Washakie	25.3	26.5	24.1	5.1	6.5	3.7
LARAMIE RIVER												
3	Brooklyn Lake	Wyo.	7mi. NW. Antenna	11-16N-79W	10200	Medicine Bow	37.5	26.5	35.5	10.7	7.1	10.7
11	Fox Park	"	Fox Park	21-13N-78W	9200	"	23.0	18.1	23.8	5.2	3.6	5.1
34	Pole Mountain #2*	"	10mi. SE. Laramie	35-15N-72W	8700	"	14.6	10.1	14.6	3.0	2.7	2.6
35	Libby Lodge #2	"	3mi. NW. Antenna	29-16N-78W	8700	"	19.4	17.4	18.5	4.0	3.6	4.0
36	Hairpin Turn #2	"	5mi. NW.	24-16N-79W	9500	"	21.9	15.9	20.2	5.1	3.6	4.7
4	W. Port. G-P. Tunnel	Colo.	4mi. N. Chambers	17-8N-75W	8600	Roosevelt	20.8	14.1	22.0	4.7	4.6	3.1
50	Deadman Hill*	"	10mi. W. R. Feather	26-10N-75W	10200	"	29.0	21.5	32.9	6.2	4.6	6.0
71	Deadman Hill #2*	"	8mi. SW.	6-9N-74W	10200	"	24.9	18.5	28.0	5.0	3.7	5.2
88	Roach	"	8mi. NW. Glendevy	5-10N-77W	9800	"	35.3	32.5	34.8	7.6	6.7	9.0
				Average for Drainage			25.2	19.4	25.6	5.7	4.5	5.6

\*On adjacent drainage

@Average for period of record





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				Locality	Description			Av. Snow Depth	Av. @	1941	1942	Av. Water Content	
								In.	In.	In.	In.	1941	1942
SOUTH PLATTE RIVER													
14	Hoosier Pass	S. Platte R.	Colo.	Hoosier Pass	13-8S-78W	11400	Pike	26.0	21.9	29.6	4.8	3.0	5.8
15	Fairplay	" "	"	Fairplay	33-9S-77W	10000	"	5.0	9.8	6.0	0.5	0.8	0.9
83	Jefferson Cr. #2	Jefferson Cr.	"	5mi. NW. Jefferson	14-7S-76W	10100	"	21.1	18.3	26.1	3.1	2.6	4.5
					Average for Drainage			17.4	16.7	20.6	2.8	2.1	3.7
CROW CREEK													
34	Pole Mountain #2	Crow Creek	Wyo.	10mi. SE. Laramie	35-15N-72W	8700	Medicine Bow	14.6	10.1	14.6	3.0	2.7	2.6
POUDRE RIVER													
1	Cameron Pass	Joe Wright Cr.	Colo.	Cameron Pass	2-6N-76W	10300	Roosevelt	38.8	30.3	37.0	10.4	9.8	8.3
2	Chambers Lake	Poudre River	"	Chambers Lake	6-7N-75W	9000	"	14.8	8.8	12.1	3.8	3.2	3.1
3	Big South	"	"	2mi. E. Chambers L.	33-8N-75W	8600	"	5.4	3.5	4.5	1.1	1.2	0.5
50	Deadman Hill	N. Poudre R.	"	10mi. W. R. Feather	26-10N-75W	10200	"	29.0	21.5	32.9	6.2	4.6	6.0
65	Lake Irene*	Big S. Poudre	"	1mi. SW. Milner P.	8-5N-75W	10600	Ry. Mtn. N.P.	47.0	34.5	44.9	12.5	7.4	10.3
68	Hour Glass Lake	L. S. Poudre	"	2mi. NW. Pingree P.	18-7N-73W	9500	Roosevelt	17.6	11.5	20.4	3.3	2.2	2.9
71	Deadman Hill #2	N. Poudre R.	"	8mi. SW. R. Feather	6-9N-74W	10200	"	24.9	18.5	28.0	5.0	3.7	5.2
					Average for Drainage			25.4	18.4	25.7	6.0	4.6	5.2
BIG THOMPSON													
65	Lake Irene*	Big Thompson R.	Colo.	1mi. SW. Milner P.	8-5N-75W	10600	Ry. Mtn. N.P.	47.0	34.5	44.9	12.5	7.4	10.3
95	Hidden Valley No. 2	Hidden Val. Cr.	"	9mi. W. Estes P.	23-5N-74W	9550	"	22.2	21.0	23.4	4.4	4.2	4.6
					Average for Drainage			34.6	27.8	34.2	8.4	5.8	7.4
ST. VRAIN RIVER													
41	Wild Basin	N. St. Vrain R.	Colo.	5mi. W. Allens P.	24-3N-74W	10000	Ry. Mtn. N.P.	26.0	19.4	31.6	5.7	2.2	7.6
BOULDER CREEK													
5	E. Port. Moffat	T. S. Boulder Cr.	Colo.	East Portal	2-2S-74W	9400	Roosevelt	8.9	10.7	6.8	1.9	1.7	1.6
60	University Camp #2	N. Boulder Cr.	"	5mi. SW. Ward	28-1N-73W	10300	"	31.9	20.5	27.8	8.6	4.3	7.2
					Average for Drainage			20.4	15.6	17.3	5.2	3.0	4.4

\*On adjacent Drainage

@Average for period of record



1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



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			Locality	Descrip- tion			Av. Snow Depth	Av. Water Content	1941	1942
							In.	in.	In.	In.
CLEAR CREEK										
61 Loveland Pass #2	Clear Creek	Colo.	10 mi. W. Georgetown	27-4S-76W	10100	Arapaho	26.3	25.5	29.5	4.6
97 Grizzley Peak*	" "	"	1 mi. W. Loveland P	2-5S-76W	11250	"	--	--	34.0	3.9
			Average for Drainage				26.3	25.5	29.5	4.6
ARKANSAS RIVER										
19 Tennessee Pass	Tennessee Cr.	Colo.	Tennessee Pass	21-8S-80W	10200	Cochetopa	24.0	21.2	26.4	4.2
21 Twin Lakes Tun.	Lake Creek	"	9 mi. W. Twin Lakes	22-11S-82W	10500	"	26.3	23.6	25.4	6.1
42 Marshall Creek*	Poncha Cr.	"	Marshall Pass	24-48N-6E	10800	"	31.0	34.5	30.6	7.0
43 Poncha Creek	" "	"	" "	19-48N-7E	10500	"	25.2	33.4	23.5	6.5
72 Whiskey Creek #2	Whiskey Cr.	"	Whiskey Cr. Pass	37-2N105.2W	10300	Maxwell Gr.	14.7	25.4	6.2	3.9
74 LaVeta Pass #2*	Cuchara Cr.	"	LaVeta Pass	22-28S-70W	9300	SanCristoGr	20.3	29.1	16.7	4.0
78 Four Mile Park #2	Lake Creek	"	3 mi. SW. Twin L.	23-11S-81W	9700	Cochetopa	--	12.7	--	2.5
79 Fremont Pass #2	E. Fork Ark. R.	"	Fremont Pass	2-8S-79W	11400	Arapaho	39.0	33.3	42.3	7.8
92 Monarch Pass	S. Fork Ark. R.	"	Monarch Pass	16-49N-6E	10500	Cochetopa	45.2	44.3	46.2	9.4
			Average for Drainage				28.2	30.6	27.2	6.1

\*On adjacent drainage

@Average for period of record

